



BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF NEGRO  
WORKERS OF THE R.I.L.U.

May 1, 1930

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NOTICE TO OUR READERS: We beg all our readers to acknowledge the receipt of the "Negro Worker" in order to ensure future issues. Editors are requested to repring articles, resolutions, appeals, etc., which appear in the Bulletin.

Address all correspondence to: Moscow II, Solyanka 12, Profintern.



The International Conference of Negro Workers, destined to be convened in July next, is of vast significance, for this will be the first Conference which will serve to unite the Negro workers of the USA, the Antille Islands, Latin-America, and South, Central and North Africa. This will be the first Conference at which Negro workers will assemble for the purpose of discussing the methods and means for waging the struggle against Imperialism and Race Oppression. Of particular importance is it to draw into the labours of this Conference the toiling masses of the most backward colonies of West and Central Africa, just where during the course of the past year some rather militant manifestations of the Negro toiling masses took place.

The fact alone that the Negro workers will meet at an International Conference, the fact that they are taking up for solution a number of general class political tasks---is a sign of the growing class consciousness of this most oppressed and most cruelly persecuted section of humanity---it is the harsh warning for imperialist domination. Imperialism based and bases itself to-day on race oppression. It was Imperialism which first gave rise to the theory of privileged and non-privileged races; it was Imperialism which squeezed and squeezes out of the coloured toilers untold superprofits; it, in the full sense of the word exists on the blood and sweat of scores and hundreds of millions of toilers. Following in the footsteps of the bribed yellow press, the exploiters and trade union bureaucrats, many of the white workers under the impression that they are compared to the Blacks, are a privileged race; they do not understand that this is a pure slave-holder theory, directed both against the black as well as the white workers;

The International Negro Workers' Conference should dispel the mist which has been created by the ruling classes with regard to coloured labour. It must be announced by this Conference, with all determination and plainness, that the Negro workers are part and parcel of the whole international proletariat, that they are ready to take up the struggle hand in hand with the toilers of the world, for social, national and race liberation, that they do not separate their fate from the fate of the exploited classes and oppressed peoples, and that without the class struggle it is impossible, nor can it be possible, to abolish race oppression.

Whatever the composition of the Conference may be, whatever may be its decisions, we are firmly convinced that it will be a serious stride forward on the road for uniting the black and white workers in a strong fraternal union; that this Conference will come to be the centre of gravity for the most backward and oppressed Negro workers throughout the whole world.

GREETINGS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NEGRO WORKERS!

GREETINGS TO ALL COMRADES AND ALLIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST  
IMPERIALISM!

A. LOZOVSKY.

Moscow, April 29, 1930.



All proletarian Negro organisations; Negro toiling farmers organisations; shop committees and trade unions are invited to send their delegates to the London Conference of Negro Toilers which will be held July 1, 1930.

For further information write to:

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U.S.A.

DOWN WITH THE SECOND (LABOUR AND SOCIALIST) INTERNATIONAL!

LONG LIVE THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL AND THE RED INTERNATIONAL  
OF LABOUR UNIONS, THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL DEFENDERS OF THE IN-  
TERESTS OF THE PROLETARIAT!

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#### REVOLUTIONARY UPSURGE IN THE COLONIES.

The general revolutionary upsurge has manifested itself with particular force in the colonial and semi-colonial countries. Along with the former centres of the colonial revolutionary movement---China, India, Indonesia, Korea, the Arabian East,---Syria, Palestine, Trans-Jordania---is also awakening; and ever more and more are new countries like Indo-China, Formosa, the Philippines, etc., being drawn into the movement. Of particular significance is the development of the oppressed masses of Africa. During the past year a series of uprisings were recorded in the French Congo, in Kenya, Sudan, Nigeria, Madagascar, and important strike movements in South Rhodesia, Gambia, etc., while the strike movement in the South African Union are taking on a very violent form and are of a clearly-expressed political character. Strikes and revolts have also become regular occurrences in the countries of Latin-America. Along with those countries into which imperialism had penetrated long since, like Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil, the revolutionary movements now embrace such countries as Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Haiti, and others, which have comparatively recently become the object of imperialist exploitation.

The economic crisis which began in the Fall of last year and which involved the whole of the capitalist world, has, with particular force affected the economy of the colonies, as manifested first of all in the sharp decline of prices on all raw materials of the colonies: wheat, Indian-corn, flax, cotton, jute, silk, sugar, tea, coffee, rubber, colored metals (copper, zinc, tin, lead, silver), the prices dropping during the last few months by 15-40%. As a result, we witness the mass pauperisation of the peasantry, curtailment of markets, a crisis in industry, especially in the weaker national industries (China, India), and a tremendous growth of unemployment. At the same time, we witness intensified competition and pressure brought to bear by the imperialists, who are conducting a relentless fight for the curtailed colonial markets both among themselves and against the native bourgeoisie. In their endeavours to strengthen their competing power and to lower the costs of production, the colonial bourgeoisie are also having recourse to ra-



tionalisation methods, greater exploitation, intensifying and lengthening the working day, lowering the already miserable starvation wages of the workers, and as a whole, worsening the labour conditions of the toiling masses. This inevitably leads to an extreme sharpening of class contradictions, to continuous strikes of the colonial proletariat, to uprisings, peasant revolts, the peasantry being forced to leave the rich plantations by the imperialist farmers and thrust far back into the sterile and wasted regions (East and South Africa, Latin-America).

The revolutionary movement at the present moment is most intense in INDIA. Despite the fact that in this country there is no crystallised Communist Party, the vanguard of the working class succeeded in reinforcing its positions, in chasing the bourgeois and Right elements, who were formerly the leaders of the labour movement, and in taking over the leadership into their hands. The Indian workers, in a series of mass strikes (Bombay, Calcutta, Jamshedpur, Golmuri), not only proved their splendid militancy and class solidarity in economic struggles, but took up the struggle for the hegemony of the national-revolutionary movement. The Imperialists, through the British Labour Government, are adapting the most brutal repressive measures against the Indian toilers; the Left Wing of the native bourgeoisie are endeavouring to deceive the Indian workers by means of Left phrases; Ghandi and his followers speculating on the religious superstitions, which still prevail among considerable sections of the artisan workers, the town poor, and particularly among the peasants are trying their utmost to persuade the native masses to abandon the road of struggle, and enter upon the road of "passive resistance", which means not to put up any resistance at all. However, during the last few years the working class has matured and hardened in the struggle; the experiences gained as a result of the betrayals of Ghandi and his followers in the past have not yet been forgotten by the Indian workers. Neither Ghandi, nor the Left Nationalists therefore, are able to get the Indian proletariat to abandon the road of the class struggle.

To-day, China is on the eve of a fresh revolutionary upsurge. This is borne out by the widely extended peasant uprisings, involving practically one-half of China, and by the existence of Soviet Centres in a whole number of regions. This is also evidenced by the growth of the strike movement in the industrial centres (Shanghai, Tientsin, Wuhan, Tsindao), and in the basic branches of industry (textile, mining, and railroad). Whereas, in India the vanguard of the working class went far ahead and the peasant movement is not able to catch up to it, we have in China just the opposite phenomenon: violently and extensively has the peasant movement spread, while the vanguard of the working class is relatively lagging behind.

The intensive growth of the economic and political crisis, the bankruptcy of the Kuomintang and the Nanking Government, the disappointment keenly felt by the petty and middle bourgeoisie, the sharp competition in China between the imperialist Powers---Britain, America, Japan; the intensification, in connection with this, of the struggle between the different militarist cliques in China---all of this gives rise to extremely favourable conditions for political and organisational strengthening of the ranks of the proletariat. The so-called "reorganisationists" are trying their best to take advantage of this situation posing before the masses as "Left" Kuomintangites. However, their close association with such out-and-out militarists as Yen Hsi-Shan and Feng Yu-hsian, as well as with Japanese imperialism, makes it possible to expose the real substance of the "reorganisationists" before the working masses. The fresh upsurge which brings forward the basic problems of the Chinese Revolution---the removal of the imperialist yoke, the agrarian revolution, the workers' programme of demands, and the unification of China by means of setting up a Soviet Workers' and Peasants'



Government---open up vast perspectives before the Chinese Communist Party and revolutionary trade unions.

A new milestone in the development of the revolutionary movement in the colonies are the recent events in INDO-CHINA. The brutal and ever-increasing exploitation of the country by French Imperialism through the monopolist French firms and banks, through the French militarists and officialdom, on the one hand, and the growing influence of the revolutionary movement in China and India, between which Indo-China is squeezed in on the other, were the causes of the recent events in Indo-China. It began with a rather extensive strike movement last year. The miners, textile workers, electricians, chauffeurs, and others, were out on strike. The leadership of the strike movement was in the hands of revolutionary elements---the illegal Communist Party and the Young Workers' Revolutionary Union. The Government retaliated by mass arrests. Hundreds of workers on the least suspicion were thrown into prison and tortured. The movement, however, continued to spread to the poor peasantry, the brutally exploited plantation laborers, and strange as it seemed to the imperialists, the native troops. The mass executions with which the savage French imperialists responded to the movement will not hold back the advance of the working masses. The methods of colonial exploitation applied in Indo-China doom the toiling masses to gradual extinction.

Very important progress is also evidenced to-day in the ARABIAN-EAST. After the suppression of the uprising in Syria, a period of quiet set in. However, not for long. The events in Palestine, in August of last year, were the beginning of a new upsurge, but under quite different circumstances. It was different from the point of view that the feudal aristocracy and trading capital, which played the foremost role in the Syrian uprising, are now beginning to realise that their positions are becoming rather unstable, and that the proletariat is entering the movement, is becoming active and coming to the fore. In this connection, the First Arabian Labour Congress held in Haifa (Palestine) at the beginning of this year, is very significant. The proletarian class elements were still in the minority at this Congress, the influence of bourgeois Nationalism still predominated. However, at this Congress speeches could be heard and resolutions carried, which showed that the more advanced strata of the Arabian proletariat is becoming class conscious and is beginning to realise the tasks with which it is confronted.

Despite the different forms of the economic and political conditions in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, it can be definitely said that throughout all Asiatic countries---not only in India and China, but also in Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Arabia, as well as in the Latin-American countries, the proletariat is beginning to play an increasingly greater, more active and independent role in the national-revolutionary movement. From this point of view we have now entered upon a new phase in the movement of the colonial countries.

This cannot yet be said of the African Continent, of such countries like Kenya or Tanganyika, of the Congo or Nigeria. Over there we witness the first mass actions of the peasantry, led to desperation by being deprived of their lands, by forced labour and heavy taxation. But in South Africa---in the Transvaal, Cape Town, etc., where the compact masses of the Negro industrial proletariat are concentrated, there is already a widespread movement of the Negro workers, an extensive strike movement, which often turns into open action directed against the Imperialist Powers. This Continent is to-day being drawn into the world movement of oppressed classes and peoples.

The reserves of the Revolution are inexhaustible. The groundwork of Imperialism and Capitalism are steadily being undermined. The role of the proletariat in this struggle is continually growing and of the Negro proletariat, in particular, is continually growing in this struggle. The First Conference of Negro Workers to be convened on July 1st



in London, will be an important land-mark on the way to gather up the forces of one of the most down-trodden sections of the world proletariat, a section called upon to play one of the most important roles in the struggle against world imperialism.

L. HELLER.

WORKING MASSES IN THE COLONIAL COUNTRIES, THE PATH OF YOUR  
FREEDOM LEADS THROUGH THE FIGHTING ALLIANCE WITH THE REVOLU-  
TIONARY PROLETARIAT OF ALL COUNTRIES! LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE  
AGAINST IMPERIALISM!

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#### MAY FIRST INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY OF REVOLUTIONARY LABOUR.

May First is the traditional holiday of the world proletariat. It is the day on which the workers of all countries express working class international solidarity and demonstrate their might against all oppressors. May First was born out of the fire of the class struggles of the workingclass.

May First originated with the struggle carried on by the working-class for the 8-hour work day. In 1884 the American workers fixed May First (1886) as the date when the 8-hour day was to be effected. Heroic class battles were carried on by the American workers to achieve the shortened work day. Many courageous leaders from the ranks of the American workingclass gave up their lives in these battles. The Haymarket case in Chicago, which grew out of the struggle for the 8-hour day, in this period, where a number of the most brilliant leaders of the working class battles of these days, were sent to the gallows by the American Government because of their loyal devotion to the cause of labour, is one of the most outstanding events that made May First the traditional holiday of the American proletariat.

A similar movement, for the 8-hour day, was going on in other countries in the 80's as well. At the International Congress held in Paris in 1889, the French delegation moved that these working class demonstrations for the 8-hour work day be made an International affair. May First was selected as the date. Huge demonstrations expressing the might of the workers as a class, took place in various countries on the First of May.

With the outbreak of the World War, the leaders of the Second International openly betrayed the international interests of the world proletariat. They went over to the support of their bourgeois governments. They supported the imperialist war and thereby sanctified the exploitation of the workers and colonial peoples by their national imperialism. This monstrous betrayal of the proletarian cause, resulted in the Second International forfeiting the leadership of the world revolutionary movement. Under the leadership of Ilyitch Lenin, the revolutionary section of the Second International organised the Communist International in 1919. Somewhat later the Red International of Labour Unions was formed. These two organisations remained the only International revolutionary representatives of the traditions of the working class that brought about May First as the revolutionary holiday of the world's oppressed.

After the termination of the World War, the national capitalisms



made the working class and the masses of colonial peoples bear the cost of the war. Battles occurred between the capitalist class and the workers in capitalist countries, and between imperialism and the oppressed native toilers in colonial countries. In a number of places, capitalism received temporary defeatist blows. It was the Second and Amsterdam International who came to the assistance of the capitalists. It was mainly through their support and sell-out of proletarian interests that the 'victorious workers' revolutions in especially Germany and also in Hungary were drowned in Workers' blood, and crushed. The Second and Amsterdam Internationals became the open agents of capitalism.

The end of 1927 finds the temporary stabilisation of capitalism becoming more and more undermined. The much boasted about "pillar" of capitalist stabilisation-American "prosperity" fell to the ground like a pack of cards. The general crisis of world capitalism is manifested in the violent economic crisis occurring in various capitalist countries. These crises in turn are making deeper the general crisis of world capitalism. The result is ever more acuter capitalist contradictions that express themselves in the form of intensified class clashes between the capitalist and working classes and between imperialism and native toilers in colonial countries.

The Sixth World Congress of the Communist International held in the summer of 1928 correctly estimated this period (of the decaying stabilisation of capitalism) as one of "accelerated accentuation of the fundamental external and internal contradictions of imperialism leading inevitably to imperialist wars, to great class conflicts, to an era of development of a new upward swing of the revolutionary movement in the principal capitalist countries, to great anti-imperialist revolutions in colonial countries."

This new upward swing of the world revolutionary movement is characterised by: the series of economic strikes by the workers of the various capitalist countries---strikes that are taking on more and more political character because they are directed not merely against one set of employers, but against the employers as a class, against the terror of the capitalist governments, which always come out in defense of the interests of the capitalist class. In the South of the USA during the Gastonia textile workers strike, where striking workers were murdered by employers' thugs, where 7 of the working class leaders were sentenced to serve from 6 to 20 years in prison, where the Ku Klux Klan carried out lynching of Negroes and terrorism against striking white and black workers; the Lodz (Poland) textile workers strike, the railroad workers strike in India (Meerut Case); the tobacco workers strike, in Greece; the textile workers strike in England; the series of strikes in China, in Germany, etc.; the hunger-strikes of the imprisoned revolutionary labour leaders in Rumania, Bulgaria, etc.---all these are illustrations of the new, more militant type of strikes.

Growing out of these economic struggles, are the street demonstrations against police terror, also the political demonstrations against the onslaughts of imperialist oppression of the toiling masses in the colonies---such as the demonstrations of the American white and Negro workers against the oppression in Haiti; against American imperialism's attack upon the Soviet Republic through the medium of Mexico; the political demonstrations on August 1, 1928, against imperialist war and for defense of the Soviet Republic in all capitalist countries, the political mass strikes as in Germany and Greece on May First 1929; the huge demonstrations for fight against unemployment in all capitalist countries March 6, 1930,---these are all manifestations of the higher stage of the proletarian class struggle.

The demonstrations and strikes of the South African toilers; the heroic battles and sacrifice of the native women toilers in Nigeria in West Africa; the new movements of the native toilers in the French and Belgian Congo; the resistance against the oppression of American imperialism in Haiti; the awakening of thousands of new sections of American



Negroes to class consciousness under the leadership of the Trade Union Unity League and the American Communist Party; the movement of the 30,000 peasants in Luzon (Phillipine Islands) against the Church landowners; the defiance of the police in the Calcutta demonstration of 10,000 workers during national independence week in April, 1930; the unrests in Angola; the reawakening of the revolutionary spirit and revolutionary activities on a higher scale in China---all these but recent militant manifestations of the oppressed masses in the colonies and semi-colonial countries bear witness to the statement of the Communist International made at its 6th World Congress in 1928, that a great anti-imperialist revolution is maturing in the colonial countries.

The more the world revolutionary situation develops the more rapid the betrayers of the interests of workers and toilers---the Second and Amsterdam Internationals---join the fascist machine of their national governments. In Germany on May First 1929, the Social Democratic chief of police ordered the killing of the workers participating in the workers demonstration; in England the "Labour" government is carrying out the imperialist policies of the bourgeoisie---the British troops are ordered to shoot at native toilers who dare to raise a finger in protest against British exploitation---as is being done in India, as happened in Palestine, in South Africa, etc.; the "Labour" Government is doing the work for the British imperialism by protecting and assisting in the policy of expelling native toilers from lands upon which they were born reared and inherited from past generations of native toilers, and expropriating these lands for the selfish interest of British imperialism.

The trade union bureaucracy from the American Federation of Labor endorsed the bloody bath that is being prepared against the American working class in New York by the fascist organisations and the American government on May First, 1930. The American Socialist Party representatives meet in Conference with government representatives to map out plans in order to lull the demands for work or wages of the millions of American unemployed workers.

Decaying stabilisation of world capitalism brings poverty, misery and intense class conflicts, battles for the merest life necessities by the great mass of toilers of the world. As a contrast to this situation, stands out the Union of Socialistic Soviet Republics, which is the only country in the world where the life conditions of the toiling masses is daily improving. This is because the proletariat, in its 12th year of the victorious October Revolution is able to successfully root out the last remnants of capitalism in Russia. Under the plan of collectivisation of village life, the Kulaks, whose interest is to maintain the old system of exploitation, are being liquidated as a class. Millions of peasants, who under the czarist regime of exploitation, lived in fear, were flogged, oppressed and expropriated, now, under the rule of the proletariat, under the system of the collectivisation of the village, have stepped into a new, free life. Millions of peasants, in the smallest villages, with the assistance from their workers' and peasants' government are discussing, analysing problems of how to more rapidly improve their living conditions. The life, liberty and happiness of these millions of peasants and workers is the main concern of the socialism that is being built in the Union of Socialistic Soviet Republics. The Government in the USSR is furnishing the village with tractors, teachers, doctors, organisers, building nurseries, setting up clubs, hospitals, in order to speed up the collectivisation of life.

In the capitalist countries, the economic crisis will bring additional poverty and misery in its train for the working class, the greatest evil being mass unemployment. A sign of this is the economic crisis in the USA which asserted itself so demonstratively in the end of 1929, which is not only not abating, but increasing and plying into the life conditions of American workers, and hunger, misery, with the further enslavement of native peoples by white imperialism. The policy of the Hoover government is to extend the world market for American capitalists.



PAUL ROSENBERG

To do this it is necessary to enter into more intense competition with capitalists of other countries, which requires a cheaper cost of production. American capitalism will shift this burden upon the backs of the working class and the native toilers in the colonies. In the intensified competitive struggle the capitalists of other countries will do the same.

This competitors' struggle for markets will inevitably bring the capitalists into the imperialist war. At the same time the imperialists are preparing an attack against the USSR, because the existence of a proletarian State, the policy of which is the self-determination of all oppressed peoples to the point of separation, is against the imperialist policy of plunder of the colonies.

All shades of reformism, finally lead to direct or indirect support of the imperialist war and to support of policy of oppression of the toilers in the colonies of the proletariat as a whole.

The only one way for the elimination of the horrible situation into which imperialism has brought the toiling millions of the world--- that is the path of revolutionary struggle by oppressed colonial peoples together with the proletariat of the world.

The Red International of Labour Unions and the Communist International leading the world revolutionary movement, warn the toilers of all races and nationalities against the traitorous policies of peaceful solution of antagonism existing between the exploited masses and the ruling capitalist class.

The revolutionary struggle of the world proletariat is also the struggle of the Negro masses.

In capitalist countries only the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat will eliminate the root causes of the misery of the exploited masses.

Only through revolutionary struggle, by the defeat of imperialism and its supporters among natives, only by the establishment of the Workers' and Peasants Dictatorship in colonial countries will imperialism receive a striking blow, will the mass of native toilers be able to set up the means whereby they may begin building a new life in the interest of millions who toil and create the wealth of the land. But this can be achieved only under the leadership of the revolutionary proletariat.

The proletariat of the world together with all oppressed races and native minorities represent the chain, with the USSR forming the strongest link, that will inevitably encircle and crush the octopus of imperialism that is spreading its tentacles into all corners of the earth.

LET THIS MAY FIRST DEMONSTRATE THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF  
THE EXPLOITED AND ENSLAVED TOILERS OF THE EARTH!

WORKERS AND TOILERS OF ALL COUNTRIES INTO THE REVOLUTIONARY TRADE  
UNIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE RED INTERNATIONAL OF TRADE UNIONS!

LONG LIVE THE LEADER OF THE WORLD REVOLUTIONARY LABOUR MOVEMENT---  
THE R.I.L.U.!

JOIN UP YOUR ORGANISATIONS WITH THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST LEAGUE IN THE  
STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR AND FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE USSR!

LONG LIVE THE PIONEER FOR THE LIBERATION OF ALL RACES AND NATIONAL  
MINORITIES---THE USSR!



LONG LIVE THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL, THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE  
WORLD REVOLUTION!

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### AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' STRIKE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The general upsurge in the revolutionary movement throughout the world draws into the struggle ever-greater numbers of the proletarian masses. Each day brings fresh news about the struggle going on between the exploited and exploiters, about this struggle extending in scope, about the most backward sections of the working class rallying to it, and about the transfer of the proletariat from the defensive to the offensive.

The movement among the agricultural workers, evidenced lately in the S.W. Cape Province (South Africa), once again proves the general awakening of the exploited and oppressed toiling masses.

Everywhere the agricultural workers are that section of the working class which is most cruelly exploited. Simultaneously, they are the least class-conscious and most backward strata of the proletariat. In the colonial and semi-colonial countries the workers are in actual fact slaves or chattel slaves. They get miserably low wages for their heavy labours, lasting from early dawn until sunset. The white farmers in South Africa consider the farm labourers employed by them to be their own property, however, treating them worse than their working cattle. The agricultural workers in South Africa are leading a miserable, semi-starvation existence, without any hope whatever for being able to better their conditions under the present rule of Imperialism.

Heavy taxes, laws prohibiting them from going freely from place to place, brutal punishments and even corporal punishment for the slightest offense---such is the fate of millions and millions of the South African land workers. The exploiters thought that by means of their brutal oppression they had succeeded in stamping out every desire in the hearts of the toilers for struggling to better their lives, and for complete liberation.

However, the oppressors were mistaken. We are living to-day in the great age of Revolutionary Struggle. The proletariat and the oppressed working masses, having been awakened from their long-age sleep, now took up the determined fight for their liberation, for doing away for ever with all exploitation and oppression.

The farm labourers of the Cape Province have now begun to organise putting up certain demands to the farmers, for bettering their working conditions and for increasing wages. They also demand that the farmers stop holding their labourers in a continuous state of intoxication, and that an end be put to replacing by means of alcohol the lack of energy of the exhausted workers.

Already from the very beginning the land workers are compelled to suffer from the violent pressure brought to bear by the united front of the employers, the police, judges and white chauvinists. The farmers endeavoured to disperse some of the meetings of the labourers by force, however, the latter put up due resistance and succeeded in defending their rights.

And when it was decided by two of the farmers to fire some of their most active workers, they received a reply which, truly, they had little expected: all the workers occupied on their farms declared a sympathy strike. The strikers were subject to terrible persecution. They, together with their families, driven from the farms; and when they stopped at the nearest village, the police declared them to be vagabonds



and compelled them to travel on. However, by means of police restrictions it was not possible to prevent the movement of the land workers, and the struggle is developing and extending.

The struggle of the farm labourers in the Cape Province is only the first step towards organising the struggle throughout South Africa. It should be the task of the land workers to establish strong unions, and affiliating with the Federation of Native Unions, to wage the struggle hand in hand with all other class-conscious proletarians of South Africa against the whole capitalist system.

The International Conference of Negro Workers, which will meet in London on July 1st, will even to a greater degree strengthen the will of the millions of Negro toilers to struggle. The Conference will draw up a general programme of action and demands, and will indicate the path along which the Negro working masses should tread in order to finally overthrow the yoke of Imperialism and abolish all capitalist exploitation.

A. GOLD.

TOILING MASSES OF THE VILLAGE, JOIN WITH THE WORKERS AND EXPROPRIATE THE RICH LANDOWNERS, THE CAPITALISTS AND THE PRINCES OF THE CHURCH! LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTIONARY ALLIANCE OF THE WORKING CLASS WITH THE TOILING MASSES OF THE VILLAGE!

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#### A NEGRO T.U.U.L. ORGANIZER IN THE SOUTH OF THE U.S.A.

The bourbon capitalists of the South have been able to maintain their semi-feudal sway over the millions of brutally oppressed and bitterly exploited Negro and white toilers solely because of their ability to keep these workers unorganised and divided. About this the Southern ruling class has no illusions. It knows that these workers and especially the Negro workers, when organised under the militant leadership of the Communist Party and the revolutionary trade unions can be but a battering ram for the smashing of the entire capitalist system, breeder of all forms of economic, social and political inequalities.

Thus they will do all in their power, resort to all forms of terror to keep these workers unorganised. This is shown in the bitter attacks upon the National Textile Workers Union and the Communist Party in Gastonia, the International Labour Defense in Charlotte and Norfolk, the NTWU and Communist Party in Atlanta, the Trade Union Unity League, and especially the Negro organiser of the Trade Union Unity League, in Chattanooga.

I, along with four other workers, two of them white organisers for the T.U.U.L., were arrested on March 5, while holding an open-air meeting. This meeting, the final mobilisation of workers for the great March 6 demonstration, was held on the corner where most of the unemployed gather. The police, after a vain attempt to drive the workers from the streets and our meeting, arrested us and charged us with "blocking traffic and refusing to move on when ordered to do so by a police officer."

#### Use of Fascist Methods.

From the moment of my arrest until the time of my release open



fascist methods were employed against me.

"Lynch him, lynch the black bastard!" cried a group, identified as Ku Kluxers, who gathered around the police when I was seized. Noticing, however, the militancy of the Negro and white workers who had also gathered around in my defense they thought better of the matter.

"You got a helluva nerve," said one big Southern detective, "to get upon these streets to make a speech. Stick up your damn hands before I blackjack you."

In the courtroom little effort was made by the capitalist judge, Martin A. Fleming, to conceal the true class against class issue of the case. I was charged with blocking traffic; the following are the major questions that were asked:

"Do you believe in the Christian religion?"

"Didn't you get up in a meeting and advise the workers to stay away from church and stop giving money to the preachers?"

"Isn't it true that your organisation is trying to smash the American Federation of Labour?"

"Where did you come from?"

"Were you sent here to organise the Negroes?"

"Where did you get that fancy talk from? You didn't learn it in the South."

An open hand for all terror against me even in the courtroom, had been given the bosses' thugs.

"Why in hell don't you stand still before I kick hell out of you!" one big thug said to me as I, becoming tired of the long proceedings, shifted from one foot to the other.

I was given a fine of fifty dollars cash or 112 days on the chain gang. A cowardly lawyer refused to appeal the case and I was led away to a cell.

#### Southern Lynch Law.

Before reaching the cell, however, several things occurred to me. Three detectives took me into a private room, locked the door and made an attempt to change my accent.

"You're a fresh Nigger," one of them said. "I am going to change that fancy talk of yours and make you talk like a real Chattanooga Nigger," and with this he landed a blow on my jaw. Another came to his aid and the two of them rained blows upon my head and face.

After convincing themselves that my speech could not be changed from that of a militant T.U.U.L. organiser to that of a cringing, Uncle Tom type of Negro, with his "Yessir" and "Nosir" and abject servility, they turned me over to another, who weighed and finger printed me.

Five o'clock in the afternoon, no lawyer having been found who would take the care, I was taken from the city jail to the workhouse. On entering the workhouse the driver of the patrol said to the guard, (pointing to me): "Here is a fellow who swears he can't be made to work, but wants to overthrow the government and believes in social equality for Niggers. (In the South social equality means only one thing---intermarriage). I guess you know what to do with him."

In the workhouse a steel ring  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter was riveted on each of my legs. These were joined together by a steel chain 14 inches long, the chains are placed on your legs on entering the prison and are not removed until the day you leave.

The next morning along with 44 other prisoners, I was taken out to a large slag (rock pile) and set to work digging rock with a sixteen pound rough-handled pick. My hands began to grow blisters. One of them burst and the blood shot out. I paused for a moment to wipe it away.

"Go on there, you," shouted the burly guard. "A little blood of your own will do you Reds good."

A little later, while attempting to drive the pick through a three foot mass of solid rock, I became exhausted and stopped to blow. The



guard yelled at me to keep going, stating that Reds would find no picnic on the chain gang as long as he was around. He stood over me, gun in hand, the whole time I was there, watching my every move. About eleven-thirty workers and sympathisers came forward and paid my fine. The guard showed his disappointment in being cheated of the chance to work a "Red" to death or shoot him should he offer the least resistance.

These bitter attacks upon the revolutionary organisations of the workers by the bosses is being met with increasing resistance from the workers. On the very day that I was being sentenced to one hundred and twelve days on the chain gang for organising the workers to struggle for work or wages, workers throughout the world were demonstrating millions strong against starvation. Right in Chattanooga, though all the leaders were in jail, rank and file workers of the Unemployed Council held a mass meeting and would have marched on City Hall but for a fierce rain storm that made it impossible. The attacks of the bosses are bearing fruit but not the kind of fruit counted upon by these bosses.

GILBERT LEWIS

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### LIFE AMONG NEGRO FARMERS IN AMERICA.

There are about 12,000,000 Negroes in the United States. The vast majority of these blacks are on the land, either as agricultural wage laborers share croppers or poor farmers. They live in certain sections of America known as the Southern States. In some of these states they are so thickly concentrated that they form a sort of black country of their own called "The Black Belt". And strange to say, it is in these very territories that the Negroes suffer the most brutal oppression.

White ruling class terrorism is so widespread throughout "the Black Belt", that from time to time whole communities of Negro workers move away and seek new homes in the Northern States and other parts of America, where they are able to buy arms and thereby protect themselves against mob law.

The most wide spread method of terrorism practiced in the South among the black farming population is what is known as Peonage. This is the most brutal and demoralising form of economic exploitation. It has its basis in the rent and profit system which grew out of chattel slavery. After the Negroes were "freed" from slavery, they had no land of their own, or the means whereby to gain a livelihood, so they were compelled to remain on the plantations of their masters. Some of them sold their labour power for wages, while others entered into a sort of feudal contract relationship which bound them to the land like serfs. The landlords allotted a certain quantity of land to each black family, and supplied tools, seed, and food to the tenants until the harvest was reaped. The crop is then taken over by the landlord who sells it and afterwards made an account to the tenant. The tenants always given less than what the crop was sold for, and in this way is continually indebted to the landlord. For example, if a Negro cultivated a hundred bales of cotton which fetched 600 dollars on the market, the landlord will present him with an account of 800 dollars for supplies alleged to have been rendered during the year, so even if the Negro paid 600 dollars he should still owe the landlord 200 dollars which he would be compelled to pay off by planting another crop under similar conditions as before.

This is repeated year after year. Even if the Negro took the landlord to court his statement of the facts would not be believed, because the word of the white man can not be refuted by a black. Furthermore,



the Southern landlords are not only the overseers and bookkeepers of their plantations, but are the political dictators of the community as well; and when they make a statement it become the law of the court. It is always the prerogative of the ruling class of the South to determine when Negro workers should leave their service, or under what conditions they are bound.

Negroes who rebel against these outrages and run away are arrested by the police and other uniformed thugs with the aid of blood hounds especially trained for this purpose. They are brought back to the plantations and turned over to the landlords either as vagrants or as run-aways.

Another method by which labour is recruited is through the chain-gang. Whenever the landlords need labour they simply go the local judge and arrange that the police be ordered to arrest the required number of workers. In this way whole communities of able bodied blacks are commonly apprehended. All kinds of form-up charges are made against them. When find in court they have to agree to enter the service of the landlords who pay a small fine for the opportunity to reduce the Negroes to involuntary servitude. In this way the judges and the police get the court fees, and the landlords cheap labour.

A brief account from one of the peonage districts is sufficient to illustrate this point. Passing along the street where a Negro had been mistreated by his white master, an observer inquired of the worker: "Why do you stand this?" "That is just the damned trouble down here" responded the black. "I once complained to the court when another white man beat me, the man denied it and the judge believed his story imposed upon me a fine which I could not pay, so I have to work it out in the services of this man who was present in the court at that time and paid it in order to get the opportunity to force me to work for him."

Whenever there is a shortage of labour the Southern capitalists carry out these repressive measures. Thousands of blacks are still being held as slaves in the coal mines and on road construction work in the state of Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Georgia. A new law was enacted in the State of Florida in 1919 to the effect, that whenever a Negro is unable to pay his debts he is to be imprisoned, and the jailer has the right to rent him out to a farmer until such time as the farmer is satisfied to release him.

Just a few days ago a white man by the name of Wilson, who owns a 7,000 acre farm near Greenwood, Mississippi, went into the country of Moxabee, scouting for Negro farm labourers. He had signed up 25 coloured workers and had chartered two freight cars for their transportation to Greenwood, when the business-men and plantation owners in Moxabee discovered Wilson's activities. They immediately organised a small band of 100 men and drove Wilson out of the town. The Negroes who had dared to sign up to leave were stripped naked and most brutally flogged in public as a warning to other blacks never to attempt to migrate.

There is a special law in Mississippi which makes it a criminal offense punished by fine or imprisonment for agents to enter the State and contract for labour. This law was enacted in order to prevent Negro tenants and agricultural labourers from leaving their masters no matter how badly they were treated, or how high the wage offered by other employers outside of the State.

A recent investigation has disclosed the existence of large peonage farms in the extreme Southern part of Florida. Over 5,000 Negroes have been collected from various parts of the State and lured away to toil in the turpentine camps where they are forced to work day and night under armed guards. Life in these places is indescribable hell-holes. The workers are huddled together in shacks, given a minimum amount of food of the worst quality, and denied the most elementary



sanitary conveniences. Conditions are more primitive than in some colonial countries. As a result, disease is very rampant in these barbed-wire compounds. Hundreds of blacks die annually from starvation and exposure, while others meet a quicker and more welcome death at the hands of their cruel task masters.

Negro farmers and agricultural labourers are completely segregated from all forms of social intercourse with whites in the South. They are not even allowed to ride in the same coaches with the whites. Wherever railroad companies agreed to permit them to travel they are provided with small dirty wooden compartments, for which they have to pay the same fare as the white passengers, who enjoy the most up-to-day railroad conveniences. In street-cars, Negroes, get in and off from the rear end, while the white enter from the front and have priority to the best seats. In those places where Negroes are admitted to the theatres they are huddled together in filthy balconies far removed from the stage.

Black farmers are not permitted to patronise restaurants which cater to whites; neither are they allowed to use the same public bathing beaches, or entrances to buildings as other people. Negroes are barred at libraries, museums, art galleries, and other centres of culture. Very limited educational opportunities are offered them. In most places they are compelled to send their children to separate schools, and as to be expected the capitalist State expends by far more money on the education of white children than black ones, although the Negro workers are made to pay the same taxes for the maintenance of the public school system.

Politically, Negroes in the South are completely dis-franchised. This is done with open violence and terror. On election days, armed white mobs, agents of the capitalists, keep the Negroes away from the polls in the Southern States. Certain enactments known as the "Black Laws", have been incorporated in the Statutes of some States in order to more effectively deprive the Negroes of their political rights. These laws are chiefly based on property and educational qualifications. As the majority of Negroes are propertyless, and their standard of literacy is a matter to be determined by the capitalist politicals, it becomes very easy for them to be ruled off the ballot.

Wherever one goes in the South one sees a striking similarity in the appearance of black communities derisively called "Nigger Towns". The outstanding feature of these ghettos are their very unsanitary conditions. For the bourgeois politicians although they impel the Negroes to pay the same amount of taxes as the whites, they never spend any money to improve the standard of life among the black workers. Epidemics frequently break out in these settlements, taking heavy toll among the workers, especially their children. The death-rate among Negro farmers is in some cases 50% higher than whites. This is especially so in the case of contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, typhus, etc.

G. PADMORE.

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### AZERBEDJAN WORKERS KEEP FLAG OF INTERNATIONALISM FLYING HIGH.

One of the most bitter legacies of the Mussewat system was the National hatred and fratricidal strife fostered by the Mussowat and Dashnakzutiun Parties.

But they only found a common tongue and "National Peace" when they had to suppress the revolutionary movement of the toilers of Azerbadjan and Armenia.

The upshot was the massacres between Turks (Azarbedjan Tartars) and Armenians, which later led to a war between the toilers of both republics. Being egged on to attack each other, the toilers of both these



racers defended the "honour" of their nation destroying and razing to the ground everything before them---people, towns, villages, crops and forests, while behind their backs the leaders of the Mussawats and the Dashnaks were rubbing their hands in high glee. Wasn't this National Peace?!

Towns, villages and flourishing districts were turned into ruins. Fertile fields were turned into wastes. Thousands upon thousands of people lost their lives in a sea of blood, rapine and murder. Such were some of the horrible "achievements" of the Dashnaks and the Mussowats while they were in power.

THE FIRST THING THAT THE AZERBAIDJAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE DID AFTER IT TOOK POWER, WAS TO PUT A STOP TO THE FRATRICIDAL WAR BETWEEN THE TOILERS OF THE TURK AND ARMENIAN TRIBES.

The toilers of both republics decided to settle the question of the power and the national question in their own way, for with the establishment of the SOVIETS IN BOTH THE REPUBLICS, A STOP WAS PUT TO NATIONAL HATRED AND INTERNAL STRIFE.

From then onwards all the toilers, whether Armenians, Turks or Russians, have been building up a new life, giving scope to their initiative and creative construction work.

EQUALITY BETWEEN ALL THE NATIONALITIES WAS GUARANTEED BY THE SOVIET POWER. ALL THE TOILERS WERE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO USE THEIR OWN NATIONAL LANGUAGE FOR ALL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PURPOSES.

The fact that Nagorny Karabach has now been turned into an autonomous district, illustrates still more clearly how correct has been the solution of the national problem here. Indeed, the fact that a collective farm has been organised in Karabach of Armenian and Turk workers, which is certainly an example and international-education of those who cannot believe that members of these two races can work together let alone live together in one place, in one village, completely refutes all the misrepresentation circulated by our class enemies about the national problem.

How the national question has been solved by the Soviet authorities under the leadership of the Communist party has not even been dreamed of yet by the other socialist parties. One of the chief national minorities in the country is the toiling population of Armenia. They have been granted political freedom by the Soviet Government, now that an autonomous district has been set up in Nagorny Karabach where the population have every facility of developing and flourishing, of being educated and administering the whole of their country in their own native language.

This is how the Soviet Power has solved the national question in Azerbedjan, which shows the difference between the massacres of the Armenians and Turks in the past and the joint collective farms of these two races, of the present.

The establishment of the Trans-Caucasian Federation is at once a triumph of the first ten years of the power of the workers and peasants on the one hand and marks the political death of the Trans-Caucasian National Parties of the Massawats and Dashnaks and the Georgia Mensheviks. This is the reason why these jackals of the Trans-Caucasian bourgeoisie raised such a wild howl, and this is the cause for a still great amount of lies and slander being spread in the columns of the emigrant press.

However, the toiling masses of Trans-Caucasia and their vanguard--the Baku proletariat, under the leadership of the Communist Party, untiringly and indefatigably, having established a powerful oil-giving station which keeps driving the oil through the channels of the whole of Trans-Caucasia, and giving in place of it the steel 'horse-tractors' for the agricultural industry of Trans-Caucasia.

Armenians, Georgians, Turks and Russians, no matter of what nationality, are building up a new, international life and culture.



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Being a part of the Great Soviet Union, the toilers of Trans-Caucasia are carrying out the great work of Socialist Construction, are fulfilling the testament of V.I. Lenin, who, in his letters to the Communists of Georgia, Azerbedjan, Armenia, Dagestan and the Gorsky Republic, expressed his sincere hope, that "their close union will set an example of national peace, unprecedented in bourgeois States, and impossible under bourgeois rule."

We can, indeed, proudly declare, that during the course of the 10 years since the workers and peasants of Azerbedjan have held power, we have not only proved a sample of National Peace, but also created an International Fraternal Union of the Working Masses of Trans-Caucasia, really unprecedented in bourgeois States and impossible under bourgeois rule.

BUNIAT ZADE.  
(Chairman of Soviet People's  
Commissariat of the ASSR).

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#### GROWTH OF REAL WAGES IN U.S.S.R GUARANTEED.

The workers' cooperatives of Moscow and other industrial centres have reduced prices on February 1 on articles which play a big part in the workers' budget: textile goods, clothing, underwear, footwear and various food products. Prices have been cut about 4-5 per cent compared with the prices of October 1929. On some goods (ready-made clothing) there is a cut of 10 per cent and even of 20 per cent (footwear).

At the same time there is also a price reduction on bread (at least 0.5 kopeks per kilo), potatoes, vegetables and fruits (from 8 to 15 per cent).

At the same time the workers' cooperatives are taking steps to increase the sale of goods which hitherto the workers has been partly buying on the market (the goods purchased by workers on the market in the Soviet Union mounted at the beginning of this year to about 11 per cent of manufactured goods and 18 per cent of farm products). The role of the private dealer will in this sphere be reduced to the minimum (to about 2-3 per cent).

All these steps will guarantee a reduction in the cost of living of the working class family of about 3 1/2 per cent as compared with last year.

The worker's nominal wages this year are raised an average of 9 per cent. Together with the lowering of the cost of living the average wage will increase at least 12 per cent. Such is the decision of the Party. This decision will have to be unconditionally carried out.

The Moscow enterprises have allotted 4,000 workers belonging to cooperatives to take control over the reduction of the prices in co-operative shops.

THE WORKERS AND TOILING MASSES HAVE NO FATHERLAND EXCEPT THE  
SOVIET UNION! MOBILISE IN ALL COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO ADMINISTER  
A CRUSHING DEFEAT TO THE IMPERIALISTS WHO ARE PREPARING FOR  
WAR AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION!

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## THE SITUATION IN THE BELGIAN CONGO.

### The Suppression of the Labour Movement.

In July next, the Belgian bourgeoisie, which is now making great preparations for the celebration of the centenary of its seizure of power, will celebrate the forty-sixth anniversary of the founding of the "Independent Congo State", the first form of its seizure of an African territory which is eighty times as great as the mother country and has a population of ten millions.

The Congo at present occupies first place in the production of radium and cobalt, second in the production of diamonds, and fifth in the production of copper. Since its occupation by Belgium the value of its exports has increased from 1,980,000 francs in the year 1887 to 172,628,170 francs in 1928.

But the Congo is of value to the Belgian capitalists not so much as a source of raw materials but as a market for the products of Belgian industry and for the investment of capital. As a matter of fact, the goods imported from the Congo constitute only about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the total imports of Belgium. On the other hand, the "Société Générale de Belgique" derives fabulous profits from the exploitation of the mines, railways, waterways, plantations and factories in the Congo.

The Belgian Congo is in fact one of those colonies in which capitalist concentration has reached its highest stage; This concentration is proceeding not only horizontally, but also vertically. An example: The textile company "Texaf" is endeavouring to get full control of cotton production in the Congo. It intends to plant, gather, prepare, spin, weave, dye and sell on the spot, and for this purpose is building huge works in Léopoldville.

This industrialisation is accompanied by the rapid proletarianisation of those Negroes who have so far been spared by starvation, plague and massacre. It is likewise accompanied by forced labour on the part of the Negroes, who are taken from their villages, in order to be locked up in the factories, or to toil on the railways which are in course of construction. The precondition for industrialisation was the introduction of forced labour, with all its terrible consequences: sickness, death, and depopulation. All these things, by the way, were mentioned by Vandervelde in the Belgian Parliament, who, however, only condemned the abuses(!) and not the causes.

The position of the native workers is generally very bad. By means of deception and everything that can veil the factor of compulsion, the Negroes are herded together in compounds, where they are very closely guarded in order to prevent their escaping before the expiration of their "agreement". "Desertion" is punishable by law.

Of course there exist very fine work regulation. There are even labour inspectors. But where, is the official with sufficient courage to venture by applying these regulations, to challenge the all-powerful Société Générale, which practically owns the Congo?

A category of skilled workers is gradually being formed, and in several localities there are to be seen the beginnings of organisations. In Boma there has already existed for some time a trade union of the "Boys". In all the big centres mutual insurance societies against the fines imposed on the members are being formed. The shortage of labour as a result of the depopulation of the country, and the simultaneous extension of industry facilitates the development of class-consciousness among the workers. At the same time the spirit of resistance of the native population to the demands of imperialism is growing.



revolts frequently break out against the actions of the recruiting agents. In the big centres the number of those who refuse to pay taxes is growing.

This situation is causing great uneasiness to the colonial authorities who are trying to meet it with cruel repression. In Leopoldville the police recently carried out a regular "purging" of the native quarters. All the houses of the Negroes were surrounded and searched. 500 to 600 Negroes were arrested on suspicion, subjected to severe examination, which ended in imprisonment, deportation or expulsion.

At the end of last year a rumour was spread that a "Bolshevik organisation" was at work in Thysville, the centre of Kibangism, a political-religious movement. A small army of officials, police and soldiers hastily left the capital in order to carry out an "investigation" on the spot. House searches and arrests took place, but nothing was found and all those arrested had to be released.

All this clearly shows the extent of the confusion among the officials who have the task of keeping the Congo under the yoke of the bank people of the "Société Générale" and its branches, who are also backed by certain leaders of the Belgian social democracy.

But none of the repressive measures will be able to prevent the growth of the labour movement and of the anti-imperialist movement in the Congo.

WILLEM MAESSCHALCK  
(Brussels.)

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